

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



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Settling Ponds Support Plant And Animal Life

The Member

In 1896, in a tiny town along the banks of the Tennessee River, Joseph Lodge found a beautiful valley in which to raise a family and build a foundry. Over the past 100 years, there have made many changes in equipment and procedures; however, throughout four generations of family management, our commitment to people, quality, and product innovation has never changed. The great grandsons of Joseph now direct a state of the art, environmentally friendly foundry. Many of our current employees boast of being third and fourth generation foundry craftsmen. Because of the family tradition of reinvestment, Lodge is not only the sole domestic cast iron cookware foundry; it is America's oldest family-owned cookware manufacturer.

The Story

A creek which is dry many days of the year; however not always, begins its flow high on South Pittsburg Mountain, winds through the city of South Pittsburg, and eventually through the Lodge Manufacturing, Co. property before emptying into the Guntersville Reservoir Watershed. Under the terms of the Lodge Manufacturing Company NPDES storm water permit, Lodge is required to monitor and sample the water in this creek where it exits their property. Initial sampling revealed a higher than desired concentration of Total Suspended Solids in the water in the stream as it both enters and exits the Lodge Manufacturing Co. property. The Lodge environmental management team was challenged to find a way to assure the stream was cleaner when it exited their property than when it entered. Unfortunately this type issue is not unique to Lodge Manufacturing, Co. but rather common with entities where a creek flows through the property. Much work has been

done in this arena and it was a matter of identifying the best business practice for Lodge. After reviewing the stormwater best management practices suggested by the state, Lodge Manufacturing, Company elected to utilize a series of three settling ponds to purify the water as well as enhance the appearance of their property.



The Success

Water runoff from the Lodge Manufacturing Company operation is initially directed to a half acre settling pond that is approximately eighteen foot deep. From there the water flows to a second settling pond which is also one half acre in size. Water from the second pond flows into the "dry creek" where the water is sampled. A third and final settling pond was completed in 2003. Trees have been planted along the property line bordering the creek and water-sampling results show an improvement with Total Suspended Solids now below report limits.

The Pollution Prevented

Today, the three Lodge stormwater settling ponds support both plant and animal life. Water lilies, cattails, and fish have been introduced into the ponds and are thriving. Employees at the facility have taken an active role in introducing the fish and plants and frequently feed the fish in order to see the stir in the water.

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